



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

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Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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EPA SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLEANUP PLAN FOR PAGEL'S PIT SITE; MEETING AUG. 25

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has released a proposed cleanup plan for a previously unaddressed portion of the Pagel's Pit Superfund site, near Rockford, IL. In addition, EPA is proposing a change to the existing 1991 plan for the site. A public meeting to discuss the plan will be held Wednesday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m., Howard Johnson Hotel, 3909 11th St. A 30-day public comment period closes September 11.

The site, a currently operating landfill about 5 miles south of Rockford on Lindenwood Road, was previously a sand and gravel quarry. Samples taken at the site in the mid-1980's detected contaminants in the groundwater. Another Superfund site, Acme Solvent, lies east of Pagel's Pit, and contamination from it enters the same aquifer.

The 1991 plan for the portion of the site known as Operable Unit 1 addressed everything but the groundwater in the southeast corner of the site. Part of this remedy was a planned pump-and-treatment system for the groundwater in Operable Unit 1. EPA has since decided that this system is not needed at this time, primarily because the capping of the landfill and the removal of

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much of the leachate, and the operation of the Acme Solvent pump-and-treatment system, will eliminate or greatly reduce the sources of the contamination. EPA also found that such a system as planned would be larger and more elaborate than had been anticipated. Thus, instead, EPA proposes a remedy of monitored natural attenuation—allowing the groundwater to be cleansed through natural processes. However, the plan also includes a contingency that if the contamination does not naturally decrease within a reasonable length of time, more active steps will be taken.

For the area known as Operable Unit 2—the groundwater in the southeast corner of the site—EPA proposes that no action be taken (other than ongoing monitoring), with the groundwater allowed to recover via natural attenuation. This plan is consistent with EPA's proposed remedy for the rest of the site.

A fact sheet on the proposed plan will be available at the meeting or can be obtained from community involvement coordinator Gordie Blum, 800-621-8431, xt. 38501. The fact sheet and other site documents are also available for review at the Rockford Public Library, 215 North Wyman St.

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